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PLUMAS ARTS WORKS FOR A PLACE OF THEIR OWN

Quincy, CA – “It has just been as if a series of small miracles, like dominoes set in motion, got us into this place,” comments [Plumas Arts](#) Executive Director of 25 years, Roxanne Valladao. “In the few weeks we have occupied this space, even after the months of refurbishing; it is still a little hard to believe that this is really our place, our home, a historic community space that we have brought back to life.”



Not that the miracle did not come without decades of planning and determination.

Plumas Arts, a 30 year-old arts council, had dedicated a portion of fundraising efforts and donations in a cash reserve that was dubbed the

“Place of Our Own” fund. After decades of saving-up, with the complementary aspect of sacrifices, the organization accumulated enough to take a stab at a very fortuitous foreclosure auction.



“The historic Capitol Saloon (circa 1873) had fallen derelict over the last few years of being closed and on the market. When the gavel struck at the winning bid, that cash reserve got us the building and enough to pay the back taxes owed, with a just a bit to spare” says Valladao. For a rural arts council in one of the most economically challenged, least populated (20,000) and geographically isolated counties in the state, the notion of owning such a part of local history might seem part of a dreamscape. Being part of the California Arts Council’s (CAC) [State-Local Partnership Program](#) (SLPP) made all the difference.

“As a young ED, with more enthusiasm than experience, I was able to call on CAC staff to help. In conversations at meetings and conferences I met with peers around the state. Many were small, like us, and sort of unknown. Others were ‘art places’ like Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Humboldt and other

counties. Through the SLPP I learned that with ART at our core we had far more in common than you would think. While some partners had more opportunity there was also more demand on resources. There were also so many great ideas to 'steal' that I could barely keep up," Valladao adds. "It was just a matter of figuring out how we could make things work in these mountains."



Plumas Arts has been and still is inspired by The (SLPP) Partnership. They have navigated through efforts and challenges, knowing that they are tethered to a statewide network that binds them and all other California counties, great and small, North and South, together.

Plumas Arts has long enjoyed the enthusiastic support of the Plumas County Board of Supervisors with annual allocations as generous as economic constraints allow. Each year as Plumas Arts reports to the Board of Supervisors requesting their Resolution to serve as the local arts partner, respect for the work of this creative and resilient local arts organization grows. It was a former supervisor that first identified them as the largest membership organization in Plumas County.

"In decades of advocacy we have been able to show how our work is not only good for our quality of life, we have shown that our local arts scene and artists drive the economy and tourism to our area." These facts have been noted in numerous economic development, sustainability and citizenship awards for Plumas Arts in recent years. It is also evidenced by the increasing emergence of galleries, arts-related businesses, a new black-box theatre and theatrical and concert productions showcasing the area as an arts and culture destination.

AN INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY

Once the building was purchased the work began.



In subsequent months community members donated enough to pay for the bulk of the refurbishing expenses. Dozens of volunteers joyfully cleaned up, dumped trash, demolished, replaced rotted floors and wall, painted, polished and redesigned the space into the Capitol Arts Center which Plumas Arts moved into this last May.

Feather River College S.I.F.E. (Students in Free Enterprise) made the refurbishing of the Capitol Arts Center their project for a LOWE'S

Foundation Grant. Pacific Gas & Electric and High Sierra Music Foundation also made significant donations.



The organization is now settled in their new home without a penny owed. Their only debt is one of gratitude to those who gave their time, hard earned money and heartfelt wishes to bring this place back to the community as a cultural center.



This is not the first sweat-equity endeavor spearheaded by Plumas Arts. The organization also manages the Town Hall Theatre as a performing arts space and the only feature film business in a 70-mile radius. They coordinated

massive volunteer efforts for renovations in that facility in 1987 and once again in 2003.

"These community efforts to take care of a couple of our historic buildings are life-affirming. In a chronically constrained economy like ours, we have always had far more in the way of human resources than financial means. Bringing together so many good people to do this kind of team effort is a glorious thing to be a part of."

As Valladao photo-documented the floor installation in the Capitol Arts Center, "I kept finding myself alternating between tearing up and cracking my face with a smile as I was watching this all unfold before me. It is one thing to have dreams and work towards them. It is quite another to see those dreams come to life before your very eyes."

There is no place like home. And now Plumas Arts will have one.

CAPITOL ARTS CENTER OPENS WITH CARR CLIFTON EXHIBIT



Plumas County resident, [Carr Clifton](#) has been lauded as one of the greatest living masters of outdoor and nature photography. Outdoor Photographer Magazine states that he is "Truly a master." Digital Photo Magazine adds, "Carr



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Clifton has achieved iconic status in the world of nature photography."

A rarely occurring hometown exhibition of Clifton's work will fill the walls at Capitol Arts Center at 525 Main Street (right across the street from the county courthouse) through June 15, 2012.



Carr Clifton has spent 30 years exploring the endangered, wild landscapes most people will never know. An accomplished wilderness guide and traveler, Clifton is widely recognized for his distinctive and artistic landscapes of remote regions. He has dedicated himself to his art, which, he says "isn't only framing the image in the camera, but getting myself to the wildest places where I do my best work." Clifton's Wilderness skills have allowed him entrance into the solitude of some of the world's most remote and least populated regions.

For more information about Plumas Arts and their many and diverse programs check the website at plumasarts.org or become a friend and follow them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/plumasarts).

Plumas Arts receives funding from the [State-Local Partnership Program](#) which supports county arts councils. SLPP is managed by Rob Lautz, rlautz@cac.ca.gov.

